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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7483
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 5165
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA PRIORITY

UNCLAS HONG KONG 000768

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR CA/OCS/EAP, M/PRI FOR ROBIN MORRITZ, SES-O FOR
ELIAS PARRA, AAIT, OESHA, MED, HHS FOR OGHA - STEIGER,
HICKEY, CEC ATLANTA FOR CCID AND COGH

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AMED](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLU](#) [KPAO](#) [KSEO](#) [TBIO](#) [HK](#) [CH](#)
SUBJECT: HONG KONG SWINE FLU RESPONSE

REF: STATE 41768

1. (SBU) In response to the Swine Flu outbreak in Mexico and cases in the U.S. and other countries, on April 26 Hong Kong raised its 3-tier pandemic response level from Tier-1, "Alert", to Tier-2, "Serious". Hong Kong's move is precautionary and follows established protocols. There have been no reported or suspected cases of Swine Flu in Hong Kong to date. This response-level change provides the legal basis for increased health screenings at ports-of-entry and additional authority to quarantine arriving passengers with an identifiable fever or exhibiting flu-like symptoms. The government has also issued a health advisory suggesting that individuals planning travel to areas of known Swine Flu activity consider altering their travel plans and recommending, if they do travel, passengers take precautions to lessen the risk of exposure. As of April 27, HKG-identified locations of Swine Flu concern include Mexico, California, Kansas, Texas, New York, Ohio, and the Canadian Provinces of Nova Scotia and British Columbia.

2. (SBU) Responding to Department guidance (REFTEL) and the HKG pandemic influenza response level change, Post's Avian Influenza Working Group (AIWG) met on April 27 to review pandemic influenza tripwires and discuss additional possible courses of action. All Post preparations, including recommended levels of medical supplies, were in order. Post has sent out notices to both Consulate General staff and the AMCIT community informing them of the HKG decision to upgrade the response level, precautions to take, and where to go for official updates and authoritative information. Post has reached out to contacts in the HKG and Hong Kong's medical community and continues to actively monitor the situation.
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